

The noblest inheritance which any nation can possess and the most powerful stimulus to all that we include under the broad name of patriotism are the heroic traditions and the illustrious memories of the great and good men whose deeds and words are integral portions of that nation's history. We know that it has been said that the happiest nations are those that have no history.

But if the absence of history means the absence of all inspiring records of human excellence we cannot have any hesitation in deciding that the conflict of good and evil which evolves

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out of the potentialities of human nature produces the saints and heroes of humanity is the preferred to any state of political and social stagnation which leaves no record of any change in its monotonous quiescence.

We have not yet witnessed in Australasia any of those momentous struggles for a better and juster organisation of society which fill so large a place in the annals of the older nations of the world and with which the names of so many ^{faithful} combatants and martyrs for human welfare are inseparably associated, but we have had ~~a sufficient~~ conflicts of antagonistic forces for the possession of society sufficient to supply a touchstone of human character and to teach us that the ~~possibilities~~ opportunities of virtue and heroism are not limited to any age in the history of the world or to any

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East or Chinat. The result in each of the
Australasian colonies has been to reveal to
us the noble qualities possessed by many of
the men who have done good service in
building up the institutions under which we
live and whose names and deeds we
desire to be recorded for the instruction
of the future generations who shall
inherit the benefits of their labours. But
among them all the name of the late
Chief Justice of Victoria occupies a unique
and preeminent position in the affection
of the people of Australia, and I have placed
upon our notice paper for today the motion to
which I am now asking the House to agree
because I believe that at the present juncture
in the history of the Australasian colonies their
General Parliaments could not perform

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any act that would be a more
appropriate or significant expression
of that unity of sentiment and
sympathy which must constitute
the ultimate and permanent basis
of any political and ~~more~~ organic
union of the future than the adoption of
motion like this in which the example
of a noble life ^{inspired in} ~~inspired in~~ ~~inspired in~~
its local activities to one colony only is
recognized as ^{inspired in} ~~inspired in~~ ~~inspired in~~
all the other colonies ~~inspired in~~ ~~inspired in~~ ~~inspired in~~

It is not my intention to make
any attempt to sketch in words the
public career of the man whose name
I invite the House to inscribe upon its records,
but I shall crave the indulgence of the House for
a few minutes to say that I recall the

few occasions on which I heard him
speak in the law courts and in the
Victorian parliament as among the
most ~~pleasing and inspiring~~ recollections
of my life, ~~and I think that I may~~
~~safely say that~~ I believe that it will be
admitted by all competent judges that
as an orator he stood without a peer
throughout the whole of Australasia, and
I think I may safely say that during
the last ~~ten years~~ five or six years of his
parliamentary career scarcely perused
every important speech he made. In after
years when he had quitted the stormy
theatre of politics for the ~~etc~~ calmer atmosphere
of the bench it was my ~~valued~~ privilege to have
several personal interviews with him and

During the ⁶ittings of the Federal
Convention in Sydney. I received a
long and thoughtful private commu-
nication from him in reference to an
important feature in the proposed
Federal constitution. ~~He watched~~
~~It was~~ He watched the sittings of that
Convention with great interest and he
was deeply desirous of seeing the federation
of Australasia accomplished. He has not
lived to see that event and will a place
in the federal commonwealth which would
have him directly and officially associated
his name with its establishment and its ^{career} ~~history~~. But whatever under opportunities
for fame a federated Australasia may afford

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for its most gifted ~~and~~ ^{sustained} children
in the future. I feel that I am not guilty
of any exaggeration when I say that it will
be impossible for any of them to ~~surpass~~ ^{equal}
to history with a more ~~stunning~~ record
than that which George Washington has
bequeathed to ~~the~~ ^{us} or one from which
subsequent generations will be able to
draw a higher inspiration for ~~fidelity~~ ^{the performance}
~~of their duties~~ the tasks allotted to them
~~in connection~~ and for the suppression of
selfish aims in positions of public
trust. The motion before the House speaks
of the loss which the people of Australasia
have sustained by his death, but in
this instance as in every other like it, death
and the grave are unable to take from us
the most precious element of the life that has
terminated. Astronomers have told us that if one
of the most distant and most brilliant

[illegible]